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TRUMP TO MIDDLE EAST: DRIVE OUT EXTREMISTS

1 President Donald Trump urged Arab and Islamic leaders on Sunday to unite and do their share to defeat Islamist extremists, making an impassioned plea to "drive out" terrorists while toning down his own harsh rhetoric about Muslims. Trump singled out Iran as a key source of funding and support for militant groups. His words aligned with the views of his Saudi Arabian hosts and sent a tough message

to Tehran the day after Hassan Rouhani won a second term as Iran's president. The U.S. president did not use his signature term "radical Islamic terrorism," a signal that he decided to employ a more moderate tone in the region after using the phrase repeatedly as a presidential candidate. REUTERS

AMERICAN CLIMBER DIES ON MOUNT EVEREST

2 An American climber on Mount Everest died Sunday, officials said, the third death on the world's highest mountain in the past month and raising safety concerns for climbers. Roland Yearwood, 50, from Alabama, perished at an altitude of about 27,500 feet in an area called "death zone" which is known for thin air, Murari Sharma of the Everest Parivas trekking company that sponsored his climb said. "We have confirmation of his death but no other details are known," Sharma told Reuters in Kathmandu. "It is also unclear if he was on his way up or down from the summit," he said. Yearwood was part of a 16-member team led by American climber Dan Mazur that is climbing the normal Southeast Ridge route from the Nepali side of the mountain. REUTERS

NORTH KOREA TESTS ANOTHER MISSILE

3 North Korea fired a ballistic missile into waters off its east coast on Sunday, its second missile test in a week, which South Korea said dashed the hopes of the South's new liberal government for peace between the neighbors. A South Korean military official said the missile appeared to be an upgraded, extended-range version of the North's solid-fuel submarine-launched missile. The missile fired

a week ago was liquid-fueled, and flew further. North Korea has defied all calls to rein in its nuclear and missile programs, even from China, its lone major ally, saying the weapons are needed for legitimate self-defense. The reclusive state has been working to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking the U.S. mainland. REUTERS

CANADA'S JUSTIN TRUDEAU PHOTO-BOMBS STUDENTS' PROM PICTURE

4 Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau made an unscheduled appearance jogging through a high school prom photo in Vancouver. Trudeau had been out for a run along the Stanley Park Seawall when he passed a group of students in formal wear. His official photographer Adam Scotti tweeted a picture of the moment, captioned: "Prom season in #Vancouver."

ADAM SCOTTI TWITTER

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ISRAEL CONCESSIONS TO PALESTINIANS

5 Israel on Sunday authorized a few economic concessions to the Palestinians requested by President Donald Trump, hours before Trump begins a visit in which he hopes to revive peace talks frozen since 2014. As well as the concessions, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Security Cabinet, a forum of senior ministers, voted to establish a committee to examine legalizing outposts built without formal approval in the occupied West Bank. "The security cabinet has approved economic measures that will ease daily civilian life in the Palestinian Authority after [Trump] who arrives tomorrow, asked to see some confidence building steps," the cabinet statement said. Trump arrives in Israel on Monday and will meet Netanyahu.

REUTERS

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KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA, WEB REPORTER

Is Jared Kushner the person of interest in the Russia investigation? Suspicions are swirling that Jared Kushner, a top official close to President Trump, and his son-in-law, may be considered a person of interest in a criminal probe of the White House.

metro.us

PLAY TO WIN $100!

Every Monday, we pick a random winner from the participants who answered correctly one of the quizzes from the previous week. This week's winner is Julie Reedy.

metro.us/quiz

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How to fix Philly: Fighting illegal towing

In Metro's new feature, "How to fix Philly," we take a look at the city's myriad problems. This week: Is a new law to stop predatory towing working?

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

A Philadelphia Parking Authority vehicle is ironically slapped with a tow sticker. New legislation is targeting predatory towing companies. RIKARD LARMA/METRO FILE PHOTO

It's no hyperbole to say that parking in Philadelphia is a difficult chore.

There's a reason why, out of any city in the country, A&E picked Philadelphia as the setting for its show "Parking Wars."

But parking might not be so bad if it weren't for the scourge of illegal towing, an issue that was targeted by the City Council last year.

In fact, during a City Council meeting to discuss the issue last year, one resident told council members that his car was parked legally, along Washington Avenue at 15th Street, when a tow truck operator placed a fake "no parking" sign in front of his car, took a picture and towed away his vehicle.

According to Eric Bodzin, an attorney for the office of City Councilwoman Maria Quiñones-Sanchez, D-7th District, this was far from the only complaint of this nature that he had seen over the last year.

"What we heard from constituents was that vehicles were being removed illegally," said Bodzin.

But, with recent legislation — which was proposed by the councilwoman — Bodzin told Metro that illegal towing in the city has seen a drastic decrease.

"I'm excited. We've been able to make more than a dent," he said in a recent interview. "I have no doubt that this is making an impact."

This legislation, which was signed into law by Mayor Jim Kenney back in January, requires towing companies to have vehicles ticketed by appropriate authorities before they are able to tow the vehicles from private lots or driveways.

The bill, somewhat, reverts city law to the way it was prior to 2013. That year, in an effort to decrease demand on the city's police, the law was changed to allow a tow if a photo could show that a car was indeed parked illegally.

Bodzin said this rule led to abuses like the fake "no parking" sign, but it has been addressed through the recent legislation.

"I think this legislation has successfully curbed illegal towing," he said.

In order to make this legislation successful, he said, the bill allows authorized entities other than the police — like campus law enforcement and the Philadelphia Parking Authority — to ticket vehicles prior to a tow. Lawmakers have worked with these entities to make sure ticketing is more "swift and efficient" than in the past.

"This has allowed them to sort of triage their response to illegal tows," said Bodzin.

Now, he said, this legislation acts as a deterrent to stop illegal towing scams — like the aforementioned fake no parking signs.

"Tow companies are thinking twice before calling for a ticket when they don't have the authority to tow," he said.

But, Bodzin said that the city's efforts to fight problematic towing companies just starts there.

Also, he said, City Councilman at large Bill Greenlee's office — along with that of City Council President Darrell Clarke, D-5th District — is working on a bill that would revoke the towing licenses of tow truck operators who respond to accidents and then convince those involved to sign paperwork for exorbitantly high-priced tows.

That's a problem, Bodzin said, that targets vulnerable Philadelphians, and they have heard many complaints about it.

Also, the city is currently seeking proposals for the creation of an online database of the locations of all "no parking" signs placed by private towing companies.

He said an online database would allow drivers to know if any parking sign they encounter in the city is legitimate.

"This is an issue that we intend to continue to address," he said, noting that efforts to combat illegal towing are ongoing.

What does Philly need to fix, and how can we do it? Send your ideas to letters@metro.us or@ metrophilly.

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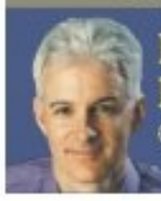

ELLIS HENICAN
@henican

Look who's pals with the Muslims now!

After famously snarling that "Islam hates us" and campaigning for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States, Donald Trump stood before the world's Muslim leaders and sounded almost like a normal American president.

The fight against terror "is not a battle between different faiths, different sects or different civilizations," he said Sunday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the first stop of his first overseas trip as president. "This is a battle between those who seek to obliterate human life and those who seek to protect it."

The less bombastic tone was instantly welcomed around the world and at home. Trump didn't quite apologize — this president never apologizes — for the overheated rhetoric that helped elect him. But reading the careful words that staffers had clearly written, the only question was how much of it he actually believed.

One of two things explained the more measured tone: Either Trump has come to understand that it makes no sense to continue alienating America's Muslim allies, our best defense against future acts of terror — or, in a desperate quest for face-to-face approval, he just can't stand not to be liked by whoever's sitting across from him. We've seen this movie before.

Trump campaigned against NATO as "obsolete" until NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg showed up in Washington. Suddenly, everything changed. "I said it was obsolete," the president said of the key Atlantic alliance. "It's no longer obsolete."

Similarly, Trump claimed China was "raping" the U.S. economy and vowed to label China a currency manipulator on his first day in office. Then, Chinese President Xi Jinping came to Mar-a-Lago, where he wasn't served the Big Mac that Trump had once promised. Over the most beautiful piece of chocolate cake ever, the rape talk was history, and China was "not a currency manipulator" anymore.

The flips just keep flopping, often though not always because of physical proximity: Fed chair Janet Yellen (from bad to good), FBI Director James Comey (from good to bad), Barack Obama (bad to good to bad again), Megyn Kelly (bad, good, bad), Vladimir Putin (good to bad to good to better to great to God knows what's coming next).

Whatever. He certainly sounded less hateful yesterday. These days, I'm taking what I can get.

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is a veteran journalist, best-selling author and frequent commentator on CNN and other TV networks. Follow him on Twitter @henican.

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The "safe passing" law mostly helps determine blame after an incident occurs. GETTY IMAGES

NEW DATA SHOWS FREQUENCY OF NEAR MISSES FOR BICYCLISTS

RANDY LOBASSO

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett signed the "safe passing" law in 2012, but you wouldn't know it. The law, which requires people driving motor vehicles to give 4 feet when passing people on bikes, has yielded little more than anger. And it did not change behavior on a wide scale. Near misses remain common.

And as noted by my friend William West in a posting on his blog WestWords Philly, there is now data to show just how frequent "near misses" are for cyclists — a factor that creates fear for new cyclists and stops the average person from trying a bicycle as a means of transportation and becoming a bike commuter.

A new study from the U.K. called the Near Miss Project "neatly fills the gap between crash data and our perceptions of danger," noted West.

Having written about the Near Miss Project on his blog, I've largely handed over the rest of this column to West.

"The [Near Miss Project] study was led by Dr. Rachel Aldred, who teaches at Westminster University, which is located in London. She and her colleagues recruited 1,532 participants from across the U.K. The participants kept a diary of their cycling on a preselected day and rated any incidents on a scale of 0-3, starting with annoying and ending up with very scary," West wrote.

The five types of near misses? Being passed too closely, blocked, a vehicle pulls into a cyclist's path, being driven at and a near left or right hook. Cyclists experienced an incident once per day, and a "very scary" incident once a week.

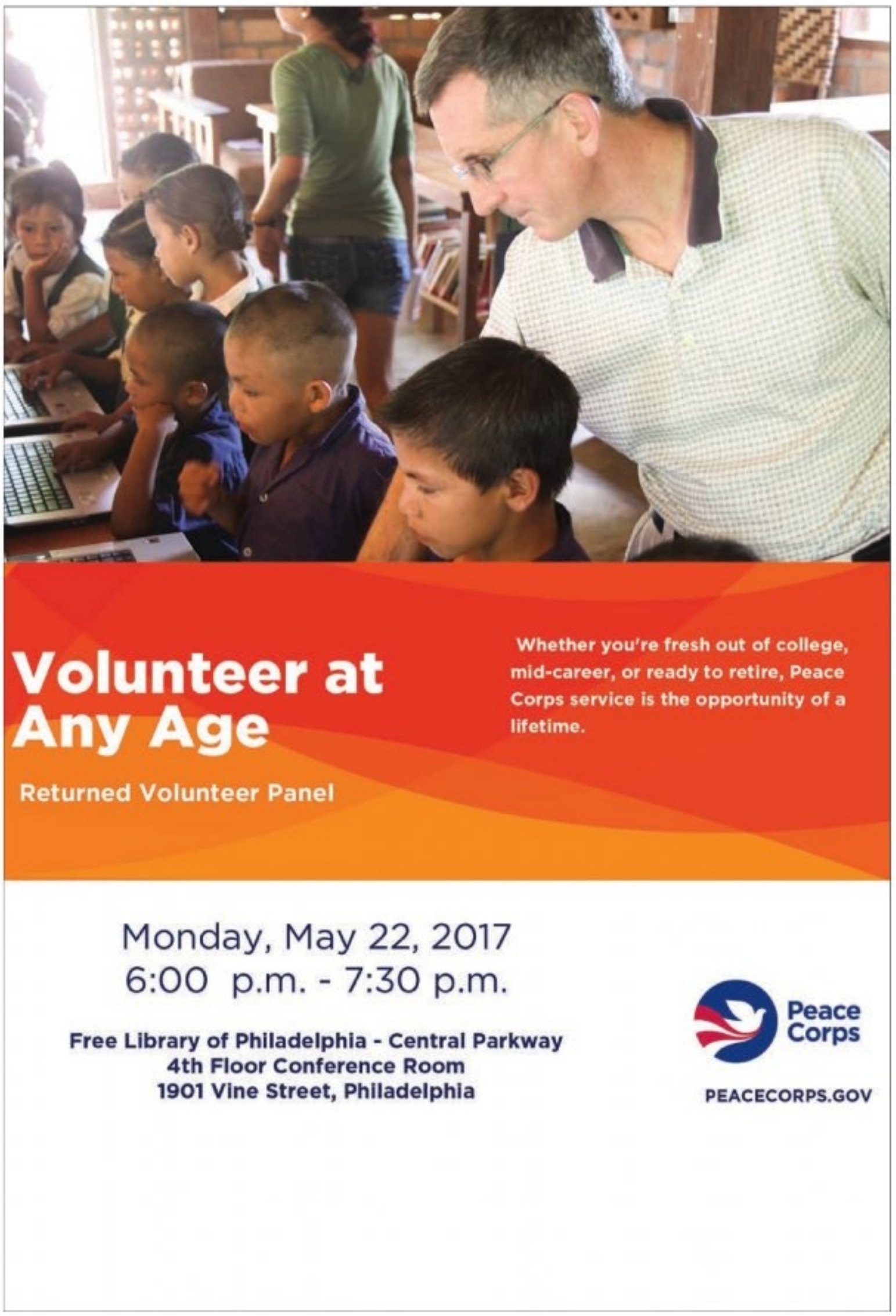
"According to the researchers, the data from the Near Miss Project 'can represent a missing link between perceived risk (how risky people think cycling is) and objective risk (how risky it actually is, in terms of injuries and/or deaths),'" West reported.

Bicycling — even on city streets — is statistically safe. Because of near misses and the sheer idea of riding alongside gigantic hunks of metal, it's often perceived or experienced differently. This often keeps potential new riders from getting on a bike for the first time.

In a car, you may experience near misses that you don't perceive. The driver behind you could be asleep at the wheel, and you'd never know. Being on a bicycle allows you to take in your surroundings and experience every near miss — misses that, according to the U.K. study, happen often.

And what's our 5-year-old law doing about it? Virtually nothing. The 4-foot law basically exists to hand out blame after an incident, not to enforce in real time.

Randy LoBasso is communications manager at the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia.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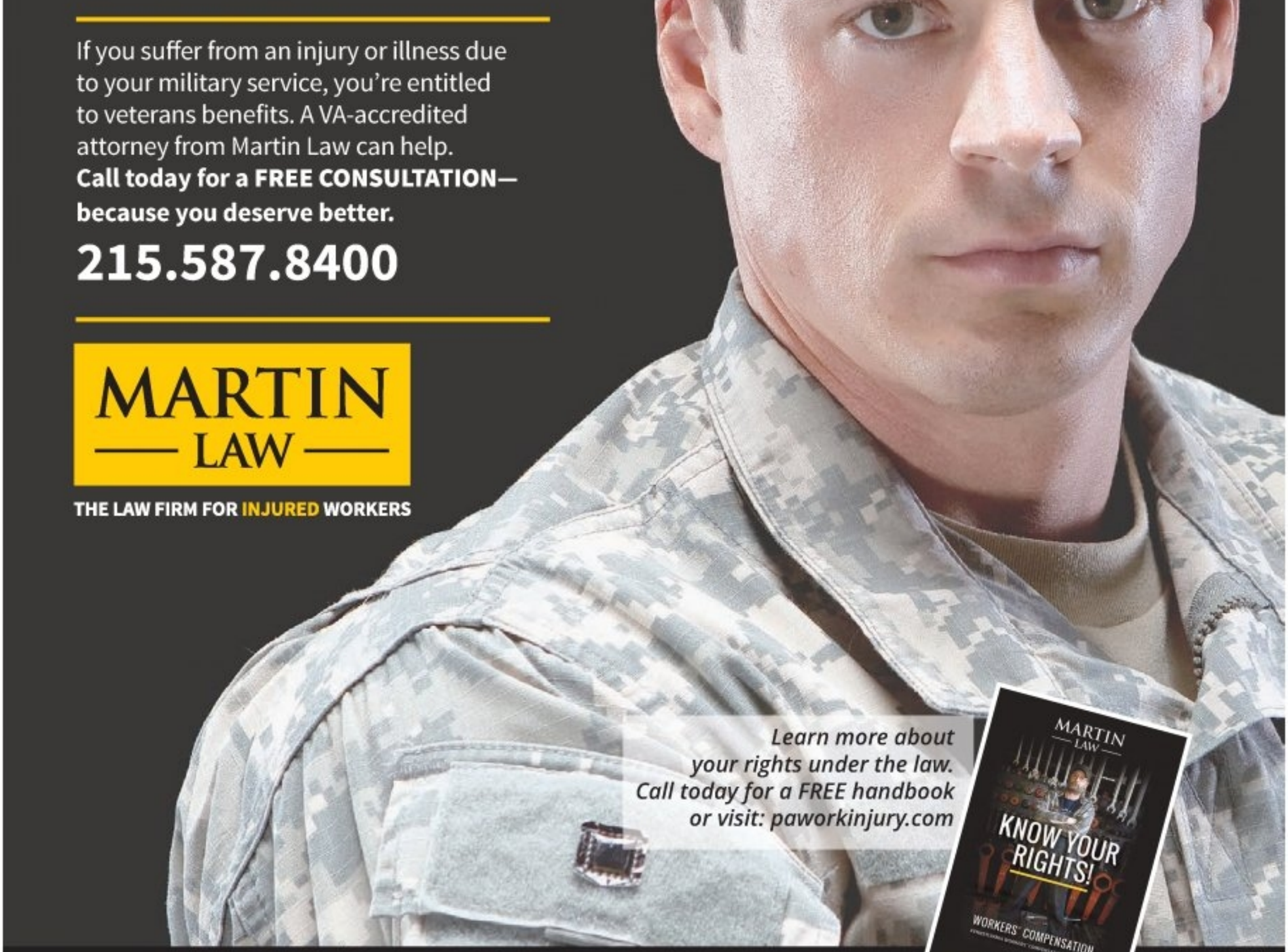

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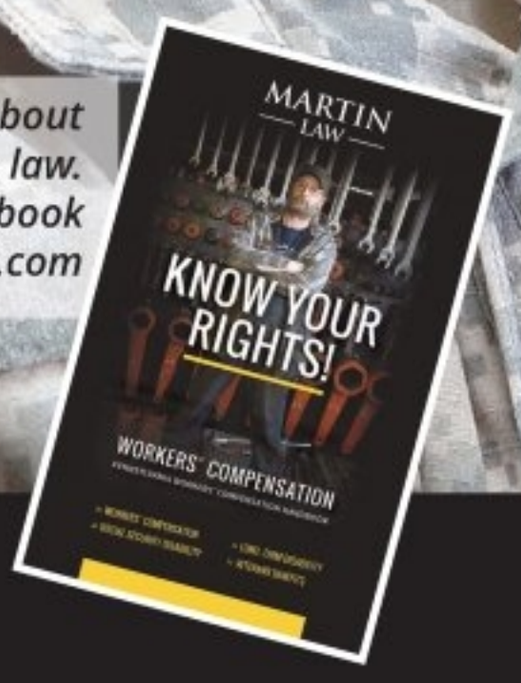

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Washington Post: Medicaid cuts coming in Trump budget

Copies of the fiscal year 2018 budget sit on display inside the Government Publishing Office production facility in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump's budget proposal, set to be unveiled Tuesday, will include cuts to Medicaid and propose changes to other assistance programs for low-income citizens, the Washington Post reported on Sunday.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Republican healthcare bill that passed the House of Representatives in early May seeks to overhaul the national healthcare system and cut more than $800 billion over the next 10 years from Medicaid, the government health insurance program for the poor and disabled.

The healthcare bill faces a difficult time in the Senate, where Democrats and some Republicans worry about its impact on costs for low-income Americans, among other issues.

"In yet another broken promise to working people, President Trump's budget pulls the rug out from so many who need help," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement, in response to the report.

"In yet another broken promise to working people, President Trump's budget pulls the rug out from so many who need help."

Schumer

"This budget is taking the fast lane to rejection by the American people and both parties in Congress"

The Post report said the White House would also give individual states more autonomy over a variety of anti-poverty poverty programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, the largest U.S. anti-hunger program, which was formerly called the food stamp program.

More than 44 million Americans received benefits from the SNAP program in February, according to the Department of Agriculture.

REUTERS

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Motorist who ran amok in Times

Rojas said he had no recollection of the Times Square incident, but recounted having a sandwich to eat with his mother Thursday morning before deciding to take a drive.

The Navy veteran charged with killing a young woman and injuring 20 others by speeding down a crowded Times Square sidewalk in his car said in published remarks Saturday that he had sought psychiatric care beforehand, to no avail.

"I was trying to get help," Richard Rojas, 26, was quoted as telling the New York Post in a tearful jailhouse interview two days after the carnage in the heart of Midtown Manhattan. "I wanted to fix my life. I wanted to get a job. Get a girlfriend."

According to the Post, Rojas said he had recently spoken to a mental health counselor at a local veterans center who promised to call him Monday. "Monday hasn't come yet," he added.

On Thursday, Rojas climbed behind the wheel of his Honda sedan and drove down Seventh Avenue, then careened onto the sidewalk, mowing down frantic pedestrians in his path for three city blocks before crashing. He was subdued by onlookers and police as he tried to flee on foot.

He has been charged with second-degree murder, vehicular homicide and multiple counts of attempted murder.

"I wanted to clear my head," he told the newspaper. "The last thing I remember is driving in my car. Then, I woke up in the [police] precinct. … I was terrified."

A police source has told Reuters that Rojas is believed to have been under the influence of some intoxicating substance, and ABC News has cited law enforcement sources as saying he apparently was high on synthetic marijuana.

"I guess it was laced with something," Rojas told the Post.

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Massachusetts college apologizes for racist tweets on hacked Twitter account

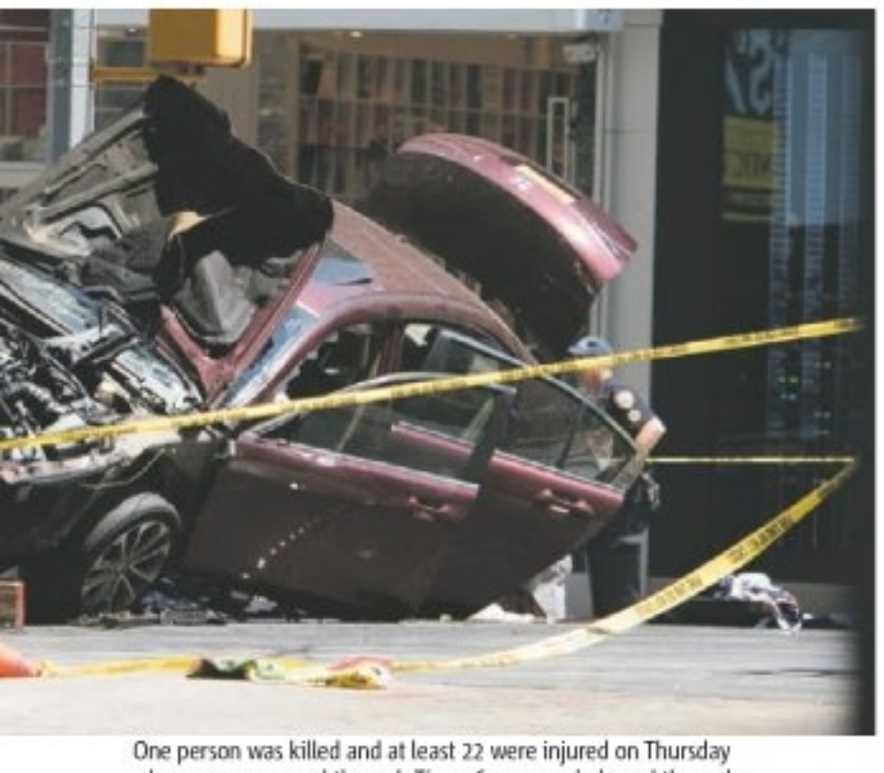
A Massachusetts state college apologized on Saturday for Twitter messages filled with racist language, anti-immigrant speech and praise for President Donald Trump that had been sent from its hacked social media account.

Salem State University President Patricia Meservey said in an emailed statement that none of the recent tweets, which were sent out around 11:45 p.m. Friday, represented the views of the school.

"We have done great work in the area of social justice and will continue to do so until incidents such as this no longer occur," Meservey said. "As a community, we are committed to stand against such hate-

Salem State University is located about 25 miles north of Boston. FACEBOOK

Square says he tried 'to get help'



One person was killed and at least 22 were injured on Thursday when a car careened through Times Square and plowed through a crowd of pedestrians in one of New York City's most congested corridors, officials said GETTY IMAGES

"I wanted to clear my head … The last thing I remember is driving in my car. Then, I woke up in the precinct."

Rojas told the NY Post

Navy and public court records show Rojas has had numerous run-ins with the law over the past decade, with at least four prior arrests, two for drunken driving, and one just last week for allegedly threatening another man with a knife outside his apartment in New York City's Bronx borough.

While serving in the Navy in 2013, he spent two months in a military brig in South Carolina, though records do not indicate why.

One friend who spoke with Reuters shortly after Thursday's incident in Times Square described Rojas as someone who returned from his Navy service with a drinking problem and other personal difficulties but got no help. REUTERS

ful acts."

According to screenshot photos posted online, the tweets called the Black Lives Matter movement "unneeded and unnecessary," said that Trump "has done nothing but great things" for America and used a racial slur to describe former President Barack Obama.

One tweet said "immigrant thieves" were not welcome in the United States and that "our education revolves around white working Americans." A subsequent post included Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again."

Many Americans have sensed an unsettling rise in racial hostility since Trump took office in January, or at least a greater willingness by some to express it, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll.

The number of hate crimes in the United States has surged since his election, fueled by passions inflamed during a campaign that focused on issues such as race, religion and national origin, according to a report from the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino.

Meservey said campus police regained control of the account soon after the university learned of the hack, deleted the tweets, and were putting additional security in place to prevent future incidents.

Salem State University has an enrollment of about 9,000. About 35 percent of the freshmen class last year were of racial minorities, its website said.

The investigation into the hack, which occurred on the night before the school's graduation ceremony, was not completed, the university said.

REUTERS

"We have done great work in the area of social justice and will continue to do so until incidents such as this no longer occur … As a community, we are committed to stand against such hateful acts."

Meservey

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Notre Dame graduates walk out on Pence as he touts free speech

Dozens of students walked out of Notre Dame University's commencement exercise Sunday to protest a speech by Vice President Mike Pence, who warned graduates of the prestigious Catholic school against suppressing free speech.

The protesters, among the thousands of graduates and guests assembled in the university's football stadium, stood up when the conservative Republican began his speech and streamed out of the ceremony, to the jeers of some of those who remained.

A few of the students had messages of protest attached to their traditional mortarboard graduation caps. One of them displayed an inverted U.S. flag, a sign of protest popularized during the Vietnam War era, and the words "Are we great again yet?" a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan.

In his speech at the northern Indiana school, Pence, the state's former governor and a onetime gay-conversion therapy advocate, squarely addressed the controversy of what constitutes free speech on campus, an issue that has intensified at many universities since Trump's election victory last year.

"I would submit that the increasing intolerance and suppression of the time-honored tradition of free expression on our campuses jeopardizes the liberties of every American. This should not, and must not, be met with silence," Pence said, in an apparent reference to efforts to bar him from speaking. REUTERS

Vice President Mike Pence
GETTY IMAGES

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Polarizing Milwaukee sheriff denies CNN report that he plagiarized

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke GETTY IMAGES

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, who said last week he accepted a job with the Department of Homeland Security, has denied a report that he plagiarized content in his 2013 master's thesis, calling the story's reporter a "sleaze bag."

Clarke, an African-American who became a staunch critic of the Black Lives Matter movement and supported Republican Donald Trump's presidential campaign, lifted language from multiple sources for his thesis at the Naval Postgraduate School, CNN reported on Saturday.

Clarke provided footnotes for the sources of the thesis, titled "Making U.S. security and privacy rights compatible," the story by CNN reporter Andrew Kaczynski said. But the thesis failed to use quotation marks where Clarke used passages verbatim, which breaches school guidelines, the network said.

"Guy is a sleaze bag. I'm on to him folks," Clarke wrote of Kaczynski in a Twitter post late on Saturday. The post linked to a story in which Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky pushed back against a Kaczynski story for Buzzfeed News, in which he was accused of using disputed quotes.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Clarke said in an email to the paper, "Only someone with a political agenda would say this is plagiarism." REUTERS

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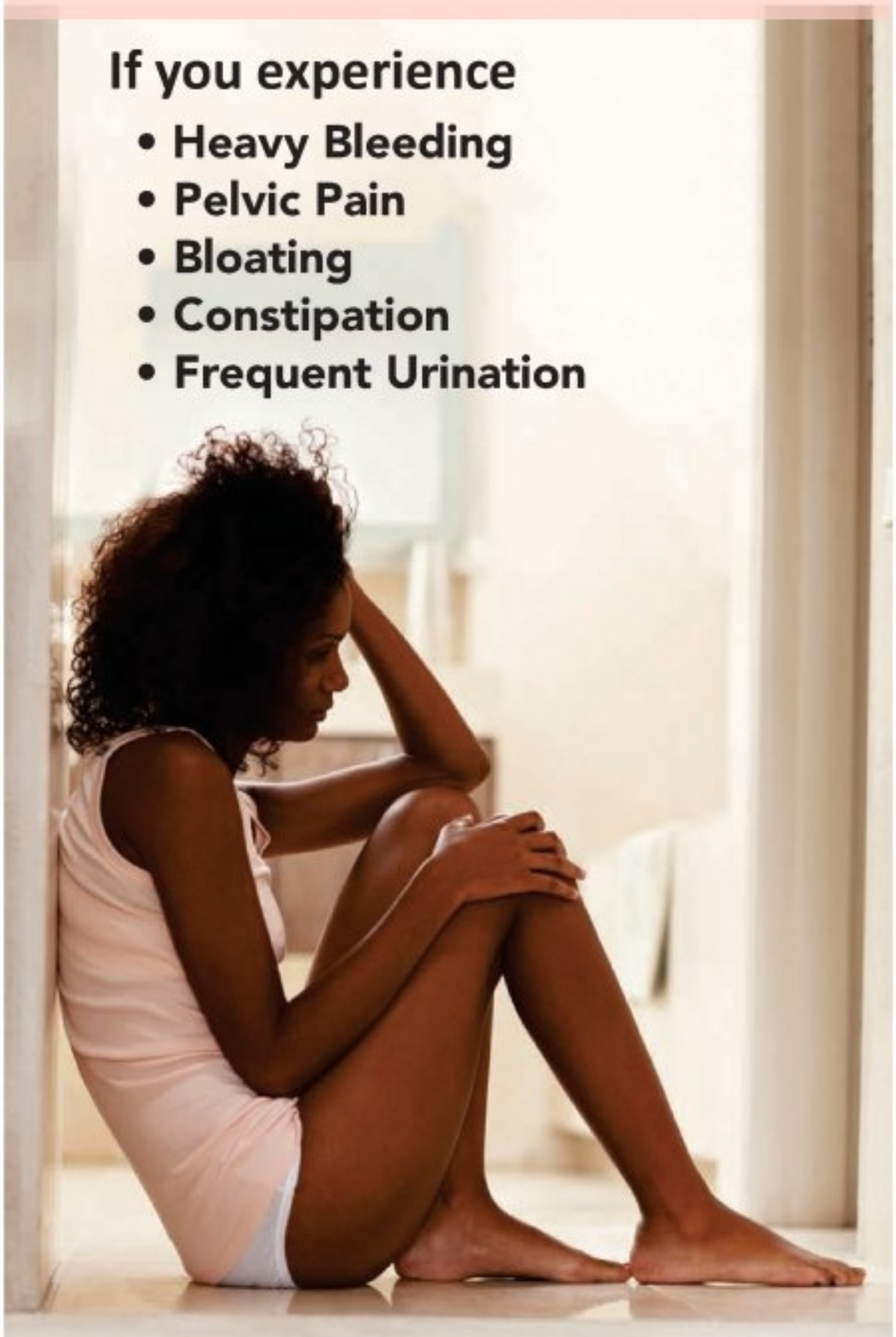

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Alexander Lacey performs with trained tigers at a performance by Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. GETTY IMAGES

'Greatest Show on Earth' takes its final bow

The clowns, animal acts and acrobats of the storied Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus took their final bow at an arena outside New York City on Sunday in the final performance of the "Greatest Show on Earth" after nearly 150 years.

Capping a legacy that stretches back to the legendary 19th century showman P.T. Barnum, the circus bids farewell at a series of shows this weekend at newly refurbished Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale on New York's Long Island. A worldwide audience will watch the last show on Sunday evening via a live stream on the Ringling website.

The finale, announced by parent Feld Entertainment Inc. in January, came a year after the company bowed to pressure from animal rights activists and agreed to stop using elephants in its performances. A featured attraction for more than a century, the elephants had come to symbolize the Ringling Bros. brand.

Feld decided to fold up the tent as a result of high operating costs combined with lower ticket sales, it said in a statement at the time. After phasing out the elephants, the owner said, the decline in attendance was "greater than could have been anticipated." REUTERS

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NASA plans emergency International Space Station space walk

A pair of astronauts will venture outside the International Space Station as early as Tuesday for an emergency space walk to replace a failed computer, one of two that control major U.S. systems aboard the orbiting outpost, NASA said on Sunday.

The primary device failed on Saturday, leaving the $100 billion orbiting laboratory to depend on a backup system to route commands to its solar power system, radiators, cooling loops and other equipment.

The station's current five-member crew from the United States, Russia and France were never in any danger, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a statement.

The International Space Station
GETTY IMAGES

NASA expects to make a decision later on Sunday about which astronauts aboard the station will make the two-hour space walk and when the assignment will take place.

Peggy Whitson, the station commander, assembled and tested a spare electronics box to replace the failed device, which had been installed during a space walk on March 30, said NASA spokesman Dan Huot.

NASA's last emergency space walk took place in December 2015 when two U.S. astronauts left the station to release the brakes on a robot arm's mobile transporter.

The ISS, which is staffed by rotating crews of astronauts and cosmonauts, serves as a research laboratory for biology, life science, materials science and physics experiments, as well as astronomical observations and Earth remote sensing.

The station, owned and operated by 15 nations, flies about 250 miles above Earth and orbits the planet about every 90 minutes. It has been continuously staffed by rotating crews of astronauts and cosmonauts since 2000.

REUTERS

Harold Slutsky, DMD
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6 Top Philly charter schools to consider

From robotics to virtual learning — these schools have it all.

SARA FEINSTEIN
@SaraBFeinstein
sara.feinstein@metro.us

Charter schools are some of the top-performing schools in the country. ISTOCK

Thinking of sending your child to charter school? For starters, these schools often have a unique school culture. They might focus on college preparation, performing arts, STEM education, language immersion or even career readiness. And that's only one element. They also create environments where parents can be more involved and teachers can be more innovative in their educational approach.

We've rounded up six of the highest-rated schools that incorporate a variety of different themes and learning models:

1 Mast Community Charter School

This K-12 school specializes in academic programs for those interested in pursuing math, science and technology. Students have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of special STEM courses, including the most popular: The Lego Robotics program. The interactive course teaches students how to build LEGO models with working motors and sensors, and then connect them to a computer and program their behavior. There are also 3D printing classes, engineering seminars, and for those who want to get a taste of college — the option of taking university courses at the Community College of Philadelphia's Northeast Regional Campus.

2 Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School

Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School is a state-approved public cyber charter school for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students interact online with the curriculum, teachers and their classmates and can engage in open chats organized by grade. Of course, not everything is digital. The school also holds educational monthly field trips and events including visits to museums, zoos and fairs, as well as picnics, movie outings and a miniature golfing retreat.

3 Franklin Towne Charter School

Aside from it's high approval ratings, Franklin Towne also received the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence from the Department of Education in 2014. The high school prides itself on meeting the needs of its nearly 1,200 students by providing a rigorous college-prep program and integrating performance, applied and service learning into the regular school day. Students can enroll in a number of advanced-placement courses and are offered academic support through the school's Kaplan prep program, Personal Academic Career Excellence (PACE), and individual tutoring sessions.

4 New Foundations Charter School

This is the only school in Philadelphia that offers an engineering curriculum for those in kindergarten through 12th grade. With an emphasis on problem-based group learning, students learn how to effectively interact with their peers while becoming familiar with the engineering design process. They can choose from a variety of courses, including automation and robotics, design and modeling and introduction to computer science, as well as after school clubs for music, film and cooking.

5 Multicultural Academy Charter School

A public high school (grades 9-12) founded in 1998, the Multicultural Academy Charter School's curriculum emphasizes academic achievement, multiculturalism, reading, writing, computer technology and the arts. Community service is also cornerstone of the school's philosophy. In addition to their classes, students are also required to complete 20 hours of community service each school year at a nonprofit organization.

6 21st Century Cyber Charter School

Established in 2001, 21st Century Cyber Charter School serves Pennsylvania students in grades six through 12 and features the best academic track record of any cyber charter school in the state, including average 2014 SAT scores in the top 10 percent of all Pennsylvania public schools. The school provides students with a flexible, individualized learning environment in which they have 24/7 access and can work on-on-one with certified, high-quality teachers.

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How to pick the right charter school for your child

Academics are only one aspect.

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There are plenty of online tools that'll help you narrow down your list of prospective schools. ISTOCK

Finding the perfect charter school for your child can feel overwhelming, so you need a good strategy for going about the hunt. From honing in on what you want, to observing the school's environment in action, Vanessa Descalzi of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools takes us through a series of steps to find the best match.

Go online

The first step in your search: Log into the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools dashboard. "This will show you the number of charter schools in your community, the student demographics of those schools, and it'll break down each state's charter schools into districts so you can really see the numbers," explains Descalzi. Once you've narrowed down a list of top choices, go to each school's individual website. There, parents can read testimonials, get educated on the academic offerings, and even scroll through photos.

Get specific

Parents should identify exactly what they're looking for in a school, says Descalzi. And given that charter schools have the freedom to be more innovative with their teaching methods, there's a lot to consider. "Some charter schools might have longer school days or a longer school year," she explains. "Others may utilize next generation learning models and combine traditional classroom instruction with technology or focus on music, aviation, or computer programming. There's even some that have community partnerships where they bring in local businesses and organizations to teach after school." The expert recommends that parents outline what approach might best support the needs of their child, and then choose a schooling accordingly.

Schedule a tour

"The great thing about charter schools is the whole premise behind it, which is that there's no one size fits all approach to public education," says Descalzi. "Each child has unique learning needs, so it's really important to get to know a school on a more personal level." And the best way to do that is by taking an individual tour, she says. Not only will this give parents a feel for the overall environment, but it'll also give them an opportunity to talk to the teachers and staff and observe the classroom instruction. Plus, in-person tours also tend to give you the most information. "And at the end of the day, the more information you could gain about any school where you wish to send your children, the better."

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Why to choose a charter school

Students say they felt well-prepared for college — and beyond.

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Founded more than 25 years ago, charter schools are independently run, tuition-free public schools that are open to all students. With more autonomy to provide flexibility to school leaders and teachers, these schools generate innovative and individualized learning environments to foster student achievement.

We spoke to four students from around the country who told us how their charter school experience changed them for the better.

Charter schools often take a unique educational approach. ISTOCK

Nyria Stuart-Thompson
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One of my favorite memories at MCSC was my internship during my sophomore year. Through the networking support of my teachers, I became an intern at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. I was placed in the emergency room, where I witnessed first-hand the trauma that many Philadelphia youth experience. It was through this internship that I realized that being a part of the medical field was my desired career path and that I wanted to be surrounded by awesome doctors, nurses and other health professionals to help save lives.

Adeline Linzau
Capital City Public Charter School
Washington, D.C.

When I started school, I was very shy and I absolutely hated socializing. My quietness did not survive for long because Capital City is not a school where you can just sit in the back and never raise your hand. This school pushes students out of their comfort zones, which I am thankful for now.

Through class discussions and portfolio presentations, I learned how to speak up for myself and be more confident in what I say in class.

Everything from our class work down to our schedule was an opportunity to learn and grow. I now know how to manage my time and be accountable for my own work.

Fernando Barrientos
KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate High School
Lynn, Massachusetts

We spend a lot of time with our college counselors and we get a lot of guidance. Each counselor gets about 20 students, and we work on college-application essays for two hours every day after school. Every Monday, each student meets for an hour with a teacher and a cohort of 10-12 kids you're grouped with for all four years. It's been one of my favorite experiences at KIPP.

Mr. DoBell, my English teacher, also makes it fun to read — and since I'm more inclined toward math and science, this was not easy for me. He's also understanding of our needs. The day after the presidential election, kids walked around with a lot of frustration, and he could see that, so he scratched his lesson to give us space to talk about what happened.

Julia Stevenson
West Michigan Aviation Academy
Kent County, Michigan

Upon arriving at school, staff, teachers and students greeted me with a caring sense of community, which was very different than the large public school I came from. I learned to change an airplane tire, build and fly remote control aircraft, use a fire extinguisher, build robots, and fly simulators. I went on numerous exciting field trips, such as the Wildcat Restoration project at the Kalamazoo Airzoo, and toured airports, like the Delta Air Lines operations at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport to expand on the realistic application of what we learned daily.

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the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

But where was Meghan Markle?

ALL IMAGES COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

After much fuss, Pippa Middleton finally wed very rich dude James Matthews.

Pippa wore a lovely lace Giles Deacon confection. Children milled about, the boys dressed in their finest Shakespearean-era pantaloons, the girls in Coachella-inspired flower crowns. And there was Prince Harry, striding alongside his brother, Prince William. But where was Meghan Markle?

Although the 35-year-old did not attend with the Hot Ginger Prince, she did show up at the reception afterward. Despite earlier reports that Markle would be attending the wedding ceremony, she just skipped ahead to the fun reception part instead. Smart girl!

As a source tells E!, Markle and Harry were wary of shifting the focus to themselves on Middleton's wedding day, because they know they are hotter and cooler. "Right now Harry and Meghan are leaning towards not wanting to attract extra attention, especially on a day that's not about them," says the source. That's so nice!

What would a Dwayne Johnson presidency even look like?

Dwayne Johnson just won't stop talking about maybe running for president in the year 2020. I'm not so sure we'll even make it to the year 2020, but the 45-year-old "Baywatch" star is richer than me and therefore way more optimistic.

Johnson he showed up to "Saturday Night Live" to (maybe) jokingly announce that he would be running for president with

Tom Hanks as his running mate. Oh my days!

However, I think it's important to consider who, exactly, would be in his cabinet. Here are my suggestions.

Tom Hanks, of course, as vice president, giving us the Joe Biden sass and camaraderie we so miss.

Jesse Ventura as secretary of state. The Rock needs someone from his pro wrestling past that he can trust.

Secretary of defense would be Zac Efron. He has a very strong core.

Secretary of education? Brendan Fraser. They were both in those "Mummy" movies, right?

Katy Perry's new song, 'Swish Swish,' is probably about T. Swift, yawn

As most people unfortunately know, Katy Perry and Taylor Swift have been in a near constant state of polite feuding. Earlier this month, Perry kept things vague, saying that while her new album "Witness" wouldn't be dissing anybody in particular, it would be damn empowering. "I think [my new album is] a very empowered record," she said. "There is no one thing that's calling out any one person. This record is not about anyone else!" The lady doth protest too much.

But also she just released a song, "Swish Swish," featuring Nicki Minaj — a woman who has had her own Taylor Swift tiff — that is definitely about Tay Tay.

On an appearance on "The Tonight Show," host Jimmy Fallon asked Perry if the song was about anyone in particular. "I think it's a great anthem for people to use whenever someone's trying to hold you down or bully you," said the 32-year-old. "It's a liberation from all the [negativity] that doesn't serve you." Sigh.

Well it's no Tupac Shakur vs. Biggie Smalls, but I guess we take what we can get.

Beyonce had a very elaborate baby shower

It seems so long ago that Beyonce shook us all to our very respective cores by announcing that she was pregnant with twins. Since then, she has given us no other information. So speculate as we may want to, we don't really know when they're due.

This could be a hint though: Over the weekend, Beyonce threw a celebrity-studded push party, a celebration known to us normals as a baby shower.

The 35-year-old decorated her belly with henna and was joined by the likes of La La Anthony and Serena Williams.

The superstar has been laying low in the past couple of months, but recently, Our Lady Bey — along with husband Jay Z, 47, and daughter Blue Ivy, 5 — have chosen Los Angeles as their new home base for their growing family. According to Hollywood Life, the Carters dropped $120 million on their new Bel Air mansion.

So now we just sit and wait for announcement of the twins' birth.

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Tituss Burgess is a legend in the making

Titus Andromedon gets his "Lemonade" on the new season. NETFLIX

The "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" star opens up about his inspirations — and his responsibilities.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
@MetroPhilly
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Make no mistake: There's a reason that Titus Andromedon is a favorite among "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" fans. And it has a lot to do with the man behind the "Peeno Noir": Tituss Burgess.

Burgess is one of a kind. Over the phone, he's thoughtful — he's passionate as he talks about his family, his upbringing, and his craft. Oh, and he's fun. He calls me a diva. We briefly trade lip-smacking "OKs!" And at the end of the interview, he quips: "You go and write the fiercest article, girl."

Though he sounds a lot less like Titus than you'd expect, the 38-year-old says he and his "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" character are one in the same. "I don't actively differentiate myself from Titus Andromedon," he says. Then he jokes, "Titus would put as much thought into answering these questions as I would!"

We laugh. But, he notes seriously, his keen eye for bold characters started in his childhood. "I'm an only child, so I only had myself to entertain [growing up]. And when you are by yourself, you have a great deal of time to observe."

Church, in particular, became a big inspiration for the Athens, Georgia, native.

"As you may or may not know, there are some characters at church. And these people lead all sorts of lives — double ones, triple ones, quadruple ones. I picked up on certain behavior patterns that stuck out to me as abnormal up against the backdrop of the church."

He's used those observations to buoy his performances on Broadway, from "Guys and Dolls" to "The Little Mermaid."

"It became easier to drop into different characters, because I spent so much time studying human beings."

One of the main things he learned that audiences respond to? Good vibes. "When I saw the messages of sincerity and love [in church], how all of those messages parlay into a glorious response from a body of people, that's the type of energy that I want to incite my audience to feel," he says. "I want to get to the core of something they would identify with."

That, of course, is how he came to balance Titus' dark side — including his casual forays into low-self esteem and feelings of immobility.

"Titus' darkness kind of drives his everything. It's his motivation for wanting to succeed, and it's my knowledge of those very real spaces that I've lived in parts of my past," says the "30 Rock" alum.

Some of those real spaces, like racism and gentrification, are covered in "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," which, for all its apparent fluff, seamlessly tackles more serious topics, too. "All these struggles have one thing in common: oppression. So all of us should be standing in solidarity with the other because we are all marginalized," he says talking faster.

"If there's blowback about any particular episode or that we've handled the subject matter improperly or poorly, I'm like, 'You idiot!' You're not paying attention. You're uninformed. In 26 minutes we've done more to [address] the hurt of a people than some movements, than some marches have."

Burgess believes shows and celebrities have the responsibility to address these issues. "When you have a platform, and can say whatever you want, why not talk about things that are truthful?" he continues. "Even if they're through the lens of comedy, Why not talk about things that are thought-provoking? I'd rather talk about this than be on some other sitcom where the world they live in doesn't reflect the world that I live in. I hunger for more these days."

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Fringe Fest starts here

FringeArts' boss Nick Stuccio gives a sneak peak into Fringe Fest 2017

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FringeArts honcho Nick Stuccio didn't get where he is — the president and producing director of the Columbus Blvd venue and the annual, internationally renowned festival — by being a blabbermouth. "It always pays to keep people surprised," he says about not giving away the game when it comes to all things Fringe Fest.

So, when he announces a Fringe Festival preview event less than four months away from its start date (Sept.7), Philadelphia fans of avant-garde theatre, performance art, dance and music can't help but take notice. For that reason, the 2017 Fringe Fest sneak peak for "Producers Circle" members is a reason to celebrate and to start quizzing your pals in Pig Iron Theater or Opera Philadelphia about what they'll have planned.

"I just started to consider overall themes for the Fest," says Stuccio. "We react to what artists bring to us, work in seminal form, what is available to us. We don't or can't plan these things out in advance, as we don't know specifically what artists are thinking, but it's turning out to be that a lot of the work in the 2017 Fest is focusing on intimacy, the familial, the personal and the concept of 'home' – what it means to be home."

Pig Iron's "A Period of Animate Existence" is a "big sweeping show.". ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

The first creator that Stuccio mentioned as a propagator of such physical intimacy is Philadelphia motion artist Geoff Soebelle, whose Fringe Fest piece "Home." will premiere there, before going onto Brooklyn's performance art congress, the Next Wave Festival.

"It's a simple idea, but it is about the home in each of us — not all of us have homes — and he's involving the audience in his piece," says Stuccio of Soebelle's work-in-progress. "Like that of the late Tina Bauch, 'Home' is a warm, informal theatrical work about humanity."

The participatory "Home" work, which takes place in a large concert hall (location TBD) is not the only Philadelphia performance art piece that takes stock of who we are within the current culture and in a big meaning-of-it-all fashion. Pig Iron Theatre and the new artistic programing chief of the Annenberg Theatre, Christopher A. Gruits, will also collaborate on "A Period of Animate Existence," a story of which Stuccio stated was "the very textbook definition of life with a high level of introspection." This look at the Great Disruption, something that fans of "The Leftovers" might love, will be staged with as great a complexity as its theme.

"It is a big sweeping show, with Pig Iron's big-

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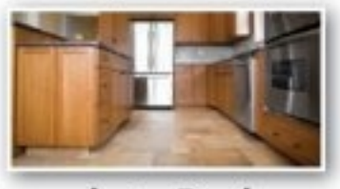

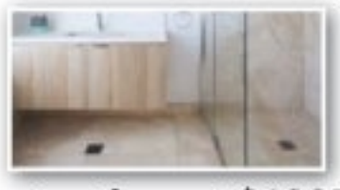

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"A Period of Animate Existence" will have 50 people on stage — Pig Iron's biggest cast yet.

Performers will range from age 8 to 80.

gest cast, like 50 people on stage, during this multi-tiered, multi-movement concert with orchestration and singers of all ages, from 8 to 80," says Stuccio. "It's very grand, yet very intimate and personal."

Then there is work being presented on a smaller-scale, like that of Philadelphia musician and vocal teacher Michael Kiley's personal resonance classes which have turned into a theater piece.

"It's about how singing makes one feel inside, how it releases endorphins, how it elevates us, how it makes us feel good, what it means to connect and act as a family," says Stuccio. "A concept like that of Michael's, something intimate and close to the heart, is bigger than life and grand in its own way, too."

Stuccio goes on to say, that another of the Fringe Fest's 2017 biggest shows involves one-time Philadelphia saxophonist and composer John Coltrane's finest work, "A Love Supreme" and a big name jazz act whose name is not yet ready to be announced. "Coltrane made that piece about his intimate connection to God to another spiritual plane so that too resonates with the informal theme of intimacy and connection, where the dance embodies the spirit of the composition."

For more information on Fringe Fest, visit fringearts.com

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Kevin Hart to be honored at the Arts

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Kevin Hart will be honored with the Anne d'Harnoncourt Award. GETTY IMAGES

This Tuesday at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA), the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia (ABC) holds its 32nd annual awards. With more than 600 attendees expected, the event recognizes outstanding leadership in the arts, culture and creative sectors.

The organization expanded to Philadelphia in 1981 after being created by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation in New York in the 1970s.

"They thought it was important for economic development in a city to encourage the business community to support arts and culture," says Karin Copeland, executive director at ABC.

"People want to live in an amazing city that has a lot of vibrancy," she adds. "Look how much Philadelphia has changed in the last 17 years. More people want to live and work here because of the great arts and culture. It brings in creativity and creative people."

ABC is also dedicated to helping the business community tap into the "power of creativity."

"We're really a champion of creative thinking," says Ari Kushner, manager of marketing and development at ABC. "It helps businesses themselves utilize creativity as a leadership methodology and a personal development mechanism."

At the gala Tuesday, comedian Kevin Hart, the highest-grossing

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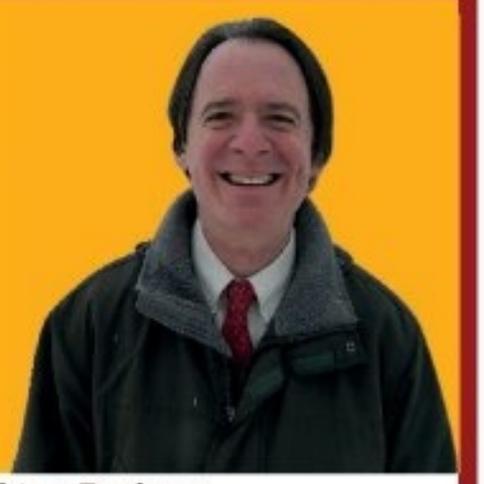

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Karin Copeland presents at last year's awards celebration. PROVIDED

comedian in the world last year, will be honored with the Anne d'Harnoncourt Award.

"Kevin Hart is an incredible example of a guy from Philadelphia who really associates with the city and cut his teeth at comedy clubs here," Kushner explains. "He also gives a significant amount of money to the school district to support the kids. He checks all of our boxes being both philanthropic and artistic."

"Winning this award from the Arts & Business Council only proves to me that the arts and creativity can take you everywhere you want to go, and help you achieve big dreams," Hart says in a release. "It's always good to be back home."

Art collectors and philanthropic leaders Keith L. and Katherine Sachs will also be honored with the G. Fred DiBona Jr. Award for their generous contributions to the PMA and the University of Pennsylvania.

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A summer internship is a great opportunity to enhance your resume and begin learning the skills you'll need to enter the workforce.

But for many students, jumping from classroom learning into the daily challenges on the job can oftentimes be challenging.

Not to mention, you also want to impress your supervisor, build a strong professional network, and possibly even land a full-time job at the company.

We spoke to Rhea Wong, the executive director of Breakthrough New York for some tips that'll help you get the most out of the internship experience:

Be a proactive problem solver

While interns might feel uneasy about asking questions at first, "It's better to ask if you don't know, than to assume and do the wrong thing," says Wong.

But there is one caveat: Don't ask questions that you can find the answer to yourself, she says.

Rather than asking, "How do I make an Excel spreadsheet?" — something you could easily figure out by doing a quick Google search — interns should be asking more specific questions, like "How would you like to have this Excel sheet presented?"

In other words, they should make a conscious effort to be proactive problem solvers before seeking out the help of staffers. "If you say, 'I searched online and tried to find the answer, but I couldn't.' I think they would be much more willing to help since it shows that you've made some attempt to try to figure it out on your own," says Wong.

Make connections

Interns have a tendency to stay in their comfort zone and mingle with fellow interns, says Wong, "but the truth is, those interns aren't really going to be able to help them advance their career."

Instead, they should aim for the more strategic approach: Forming relationships with other staffers. After all, "An internship is a great opportunity to build a professional network, so they should be taking advantage of that," says Wong.

So take the initiative to make those connections. "Frankly, staffers are busy. Generally, they're not going to say no to a request to sit down and have coffee or lunch with you, but they might not go out of their way to make that happen," she says. In that sense, "It's really on the intern to build that bridge."

"Think about communication"

- Read over all emails to make sure they're professional, accurate and well written.
- Resist the temptation to complain to coworkers and other interns.
- Avoid taking social media or texting breaks during the day.
- Never put anything in writing that you wouldn't be comfortable having associated with your name in public.

Go above and beyond

"A lot of times, interns will be told what to do, but it's the exceptional intern that goes above and beyond and anticipates what might be needed," says Wong. Perhaps you're interning at a real-estate firm and you've finished your work for the day. You could start researching other buildings in the area. "Not only is that a great way to learn, but it's also a great way to market yourself as somebody who has a can-do attitude," she says.

Plus, the more you're able to add value to the company, the more responsibility you'll get — and the more likely you are to be considered for a job later down the line, she says.

Follow the office culture

Being mindful and adaptable to the culture of the workplace is crucial, says Wong.

If you're in an office where everyone is wearing jeans, dressing in a suit and tie — as professional as it may seem — is probably not the best choice. "If your wardrobe is not in line with the culture of the organization, you're just going to stick out like a sore thumb," explains Wong.

Same goes for communication. "If you're in an office where people communicate via email more than they do in person, then you should adjust yourself accordingly." In general, your tone in person, email, and over the phone should always mirror that of the culture around you, she says.

A guide to getting rich

Everyone wants to rake in the big bucks, but there aren't many people who know how to get there. There is one financial guru, however, who has quite a few tricks up her sleeve.

After finding her 40-year-old self living in a converted garage with a list of issues all centered around one theme — not having enough money — Jen Sincero decided to kick start her quest for a full financial makeover.

The California native began studying money, seeking out self-help seminars and focusing on one goal: getting rich.

Thankfully, her efforts panned out. Her intense search for the answers to her own financial woes helped her to create a successful online business as a life coach, and eventually, led to the writing of her first best-seller, "You Are a Badass." Now, the 51-year-old has a seven-figure salary and spends her time traveling the world training others on how to transform their bank accounts.

Getting rich often requires taking risks. ISTOCK

We spoke with Sincero for some tips on being a badass money-maker:

Shift your perspective

In the beginning, it's all about thinking positive. Sincero says the only way you can do that is by questioning your negative beliefs about money — and then rewriting them. For her, that meant turning off the broken record that kept repeating, "I can't afford it." "I looked at what I was telling myself and was like, 'Can I really not afford it? What does that even mean?'" she says. "I decided to replace 'I can't afford it' with, 'I live in an abundant universe and I receive money all the time with great glee.'" And despite the simplistic approach, the concept makes sense. After all, "if you focus on the negative, you will constantly pull into your focus all the things that will prove that you're correct," she explains.

Take risks

Many times there are opportunities right in front of us that we blithely ignore because we're too scared to take the risk, says Sincero. The key to financial success, she believes is being willing to put yourself out there. "When the opportunity arises to ask somebody you're terrified of for a job, take out a loan to rent out a space for your new business or approach your boss and ask them for a raise — do it," she says. In other words, aim for things that scare the crap out of you. "If you're not where you want to be financially, you've got to change it up," says Sincero. "Anything that kicks off some sort of emotional response in you, and is a bit scary, that's what you want to go for."

Hang out with the right people

"You should be hanging out with people who have a very positive attitude about money, as opposed to your sad, sad friends who are constantly complaining about how bad the economy is, and how hard it is to make money," says Sincero. Why? Because you tend to develop the same mind-set as the people you associate with, she explains. While harping on the negative may make for a good venting session, it certainly won't help you get ahead. Instead, you should be seeking the company of those who are making money and are excited about their financial success.

SARA FEINSTEIN

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After trekking through years of medical school, getting certified as pediatrician makes the journey well worth it. After all, "pediatrics is a fun environment," says Dr. Blaze Gusic, a pediatrician at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center.

Sure, some children are terrified of going to the doctor. "We try to make it an environment that is kid-friendly," he says. "That means bright colors and lots of cartoon characters on the walls." Not to mention toys and games in the waiting area.

We spoke with Gusic to find out more about the profession.

What does a pediatrician do?
A pediatrician is a medical doctor who specializes in caring for children from birth until 21 years of age. But it goes beyond administering shots and treating the sniffles. "What many people don't realize is that we don't just take care of physical health and give immunizations," he explains. "We also work to ensure that children are socially, emotionally and developmentally healthy."

What schooling do you need?
After getting an undergraduate degree – it "doesn't need to be in science, although certain science classes like biology, chemistry and physics are required," Gusic says -- medical school is another four years. Following that, doctors spend three years in an internship and residency focused purely on the care of children, he says.

What's the typical salary?
The median annual salary for pediatricians is $184,240, according to the most recent reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The best-paid in the profession made $258,321, while the lowest-paid made $141,851.

Is it hard to find employment?
"As long as there are children, there will be work for pediatricians," says Gusic. Plus, as a profession that provides a variety of job options, finding employment is usually not an issue. "While most pediatricians provide direct care for patients and families, there are career paths that allow for teaching medical students and residents or working on research projects," he says.

Aside from that, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 10 percent employment growth between 2014 and 2024, during which an estimated 3,600 jobs will open up.

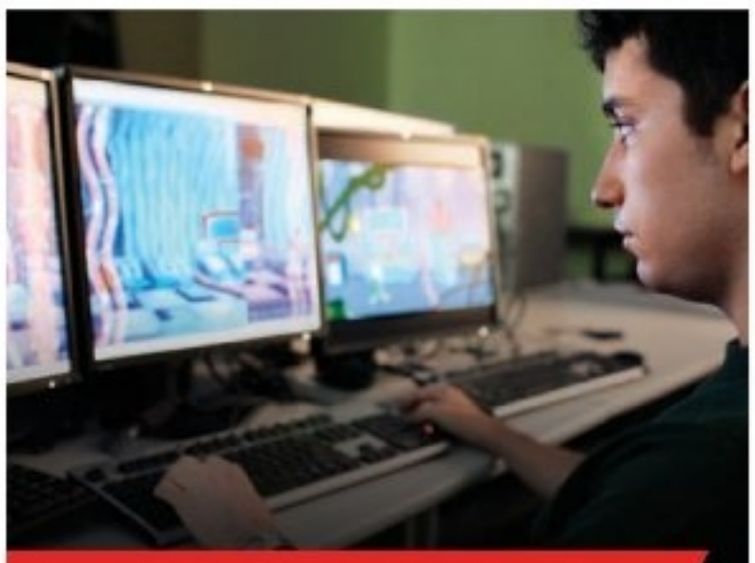
The pros
"It's always gratifying to watch a child grow from an infant into a toddler, preschooler and onwards," says Gusic.

It's also rewarding to develop relationships with families, which in some cases can even cross generations. "Some of us who have been doing this long enough get to see our patients grow up and become parents to our next round of patients," he says.

The cons
Taking care of children with chronic and sometimes fatal illnesses is always emotionally challenging. "It's never easy to see a child suffer or pass away," he says.

Pediatricians also have to care for children coming from disadvantaged social and economic situations, and witness firsthand what happens when children grow up in poor conditions, he continues.

"In many areas of the country where there is a lack of access to care, children's basic health needs are not being met, and young children are especially vulnerable to these stressors," explains Gusic.



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Phillies pitching coach McClure should be feeling the heat now

The Phillies pitching staff has been dreadful so far this season.

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Phillies pitching has suffered this season under the guidance of pitching coach Bob McClure. GETTY IMAGES

At what point does someone's figurative head roll?

The Phillies have just four wins in May and haven't won consecutive games since April 26-27, yet nothing has changed. In that span, the team did re-up manager Pete Mackanin despite their losing ways, although perhaps not as much to the fault of Mackanin as is to the team's pitching coach, Bob McClure.

It's not often you see so much attention placed on a pitching coach in May, but the past week has seen some questions being raised about what exactly McClure is doing for these young arms. The club sports a 4.86 ERA, which is the second worst in the National League. The starting pitchers also have among the fewest quality starts in baseball with just 15 as of Sunday's game.

It's expected that younger pitchers will hit rough patches at some point in their first year or two, but typically those mistakes they make in the beginning wind up being corrected. That doesn't seem to be the case for this Phillies team, an organization where many of their prized prospects reside in the starting rotation.

Take Vince Velasquez as the primary example. There's no question that the 24-year-old has some pretty nasty stuff in his repertoire, but the clear issue that everyone can see is his pitching command and the fact that he can never get past the fifth inning. Since the start of last season, nothing seems to have changed with Velasquez or his command.

If anything, he's only gotten worse with locating pitches. He's pitched past the sixth inning just twice this season and hasn't made it past the first out of the fifth inning in three of his four starts this month.

According to FanGraphs, the Phillies starters have pitched just 217.2 innings, which ranks 27th in the league. The starters also have a 4.84 ERA.

The real issue, though, has to be the bullpen where McClure's loss of control really seems to have hit the hardest. Their 4.90 ERA is among the highest in baseball while the 12 losses tagged to the bullpen is the second most. Their also giving up home runs at a higher clip than any other bullpen.

McClure may not have a ton to work with in the later innings, but there has to be some blame placed on him for the pitching woes in that area and the growing concern that the team's young arms aren't developing as smoothly as they should be.

Much of the fate of the Phillies' rebuilding process rests on the development of these arms. If they're not getting the proper coaching, then it's time to find someone who can bring out the best in them and fix those mistakes.

Right now, McClure is quickly losing his grasp on that position.

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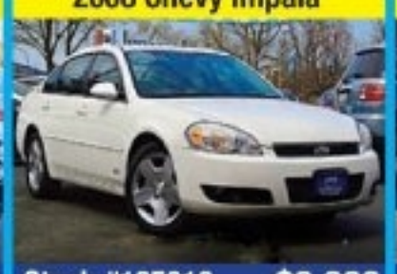

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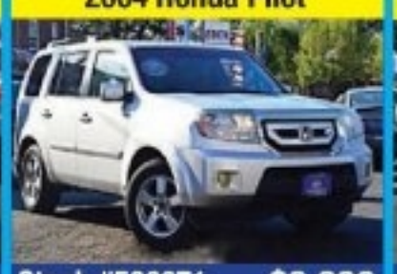

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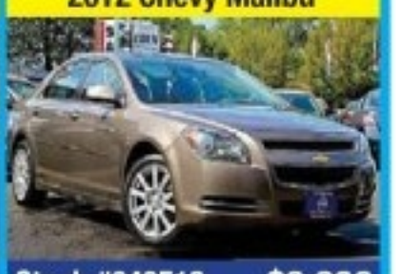

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Monk is the lights-out shooter Sixers need

A glance at potential 76ers draft targets.

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Kentucky's Malik Monk is shooting up draft boards. GETTY IMAGES

The Sixers have five real options with the No. 3 pick. They could potentially land Lonzo Ball — if the Lakers pass. They can take forwards Josh Jackson or Jason Tatum or guards Malik Monk or De'Aaron Fox. There isn't much of a chance the Celtics pass on Markelle Fultz with the first pick.

Lets take a look at the five potential big pieces for the Sixers' future, starting with the Kentucky sharp-shooter, Monk.

A 6-foot-3 two-guard, Monk's size is cause for concern but that's perhaps the only cause.

According to ESPN's advanced analytics, he is the second best guard prospect in the draft with regard to his chances of becoming a productive NBA player.

Monk burst onto the national scene in an epic regular-season win against North Carolina back in December. He netted 47 points, a Wildcat freshman record. He also scored 37 in a win against Georgia a month later, ending the season a hair under 20 points per game on a loaded Kentucky roster that also includes top-five prospect De'Aaron Fox.

Monk could be a great fit in the Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons offense as the team will need athletic scorers and spot-up shooters. The guard can make shots from beyond the arc (he had the third most 3-pointers of any Kentucky player ever last year) as well as from the mid-range and around the rim. His college coach John Calipari sung his praises at the NBA Draft Combine.

"Malik Monk is special, folks. Special," Calipari said. "I mean, there's stuff that he does — you [saw] him, he can play a one, a two, head is on the rim, fast, good with the ball, a scorer but can do other things. Defensively, he could be that guy."

An NBA comparison that seems widely accepted is the Celtics' Avery Bradley but with a higher ceiling for superstardom.

As far as the height issue, with Simmons at 6-foot-10 the Sixers have no shortage of size with Embiid and Dario Saric already starring for the young squad. In a league with a rich history of smaller guards scoring in dominant fashion (Allen Iverson, Isaiah Thomas, Russell Westbrook), the Sixers could take a chance on a prospect with All-Star potential in Monk.

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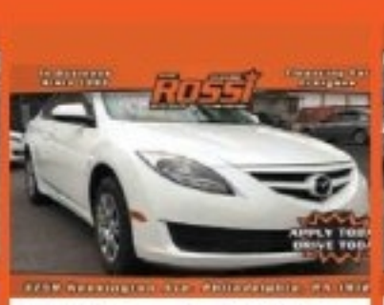
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Toronto's Jose Bautista has been gaining momentum of late. GETTY IMAGES

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FANTASY BASEBALL: WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT?

Hard as it may be to believe, we're roughly one-quarter of the way through the season. All the major fantasy platforms have tools which allow you to see how players have performed more recently. While you should be cautious about using arbitrary end points and cutting already-small samples into even smaller ones, these splits can be useful in helping to identify players whose hot or cold starts are propping up or suppressing their season stats. Here are a few sample cases.

TRENDING UP

Jose Bautista, OF, Toronto Blue Jays
Bautista entered May with a putrid .178/.309/.244 batting line and just a single home run to his credit. Fortunately for patient fantasy owners, April showers have brought May power. Since the calendar flipped, Bautista has looked much more like the elite hitter he's been the entire decade, hitting .300/.410/.629 with six homers and 30 R+RBI so far. He's even stolen two bases this year to boot. The resurgence of Joey Bats is just the latest example of why it's usually a bad idea to make rash decisions regarding established players.

KYLE BISHOP

OPINION

Kyle Bishop is the lead MLB columnist at RotoBaller.com. His articles and fantasy baseball rankings are your secret weapon for winning fantasy leagues.

Jose Quintana, SP, Chicago White Sox
Here's another example. Quintana was a mess in his first three starts this season, allowing four homers and nine walks in just 17 innings of work. Thanks to those atypical numbers, he carried abysmal ratios (6.75 ERA, 1.62 WHIP) that are only now recovering. Over the last month, the White Sox ace has more closely resembled his normal self, pitching to a 2.70 ERA and 1.10 WHIP while allowing just two homers in six starts. It's true that his walk rate is still a bit elevated from what we're used to seeing, but he's also striking out nearly a batter per inning. Not a bad trade-off.

TRENDING DOWN

Khris Davis, OF, Oakland Athletics
Davis had a career year in 2016, smacking 42 homers and driving in 102 runs in his first season with the A's. He went deep twice on Opening Day and 10 times total in the month of April. Not only that, his walk rate was up substantially, leading to an excellent .268/.374/.659 line for the month. Davis didn't hit his first homer in May until the 15th, and despite two more since, he's hitting an awful .171/.221/.329 for the month.

Danny Duffy, SP, Kansas City Royals
Duffy has allowed two or fewer runs in seven of his nine starts this year, but it wasn't until his last turn that he resembled the budding ace we saw last season. Going up against a loaded Yankees lineup, Duffy struck out the side in the first on his way to a gem: seven shutout innings, 10 strikeouts. Prior to that, however, he had just 35 strikeouts against 17 walks in 50 innings. Even with that dominant outing, he has a 4.45 ERA and 1.48 WHIP over the past month.

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(MUST BE UNOPENED AND NON-EXPIRED TEST STRIPS)
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TO SCHEDULE A PICK UP TODAY!

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w/ or w/out title
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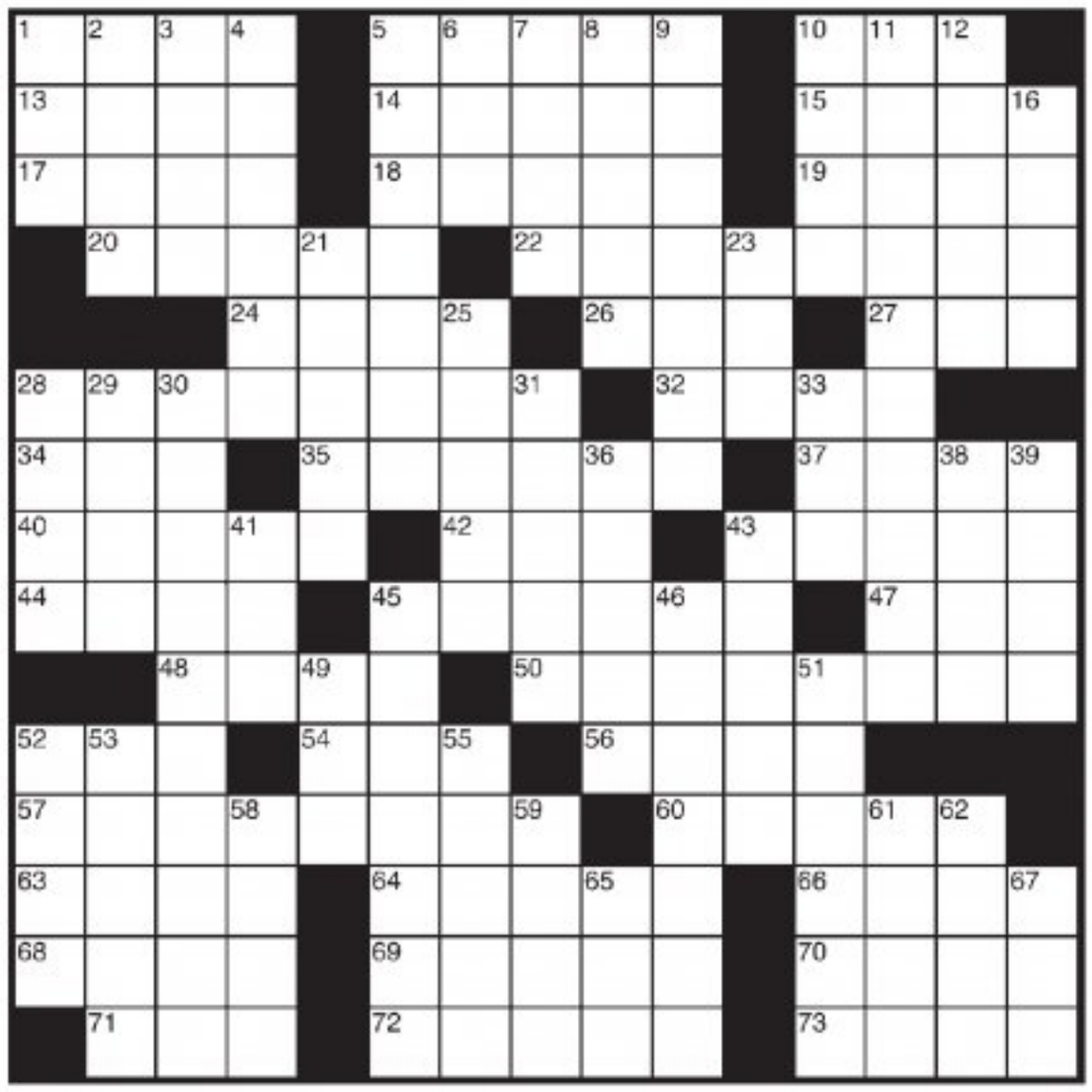
Across

1 Downward slopes
5 Late hours
10 Urge on
13 Ambler or Clapton
14 Amalgam
15 O'Hara plantation
17 "Mona --"
18 Pop fly
19 Sir -- Guinness
20 Backyard planting
22 Teakettle, often
24 Marie's friend
26 Bonfire remains
27 Pass near Pikes Peak
28 Seat belt fabrics
32 Work part-time
34 Tumult
35 Sees eye to eye
37 Outback mineral
40 Make watertight
42 Woolly one
43 0 people (2 wds.)
44 All, in combos
45 Music source
47 Actress -- Tyler
48 Promo tape
50 In a bleak manner
52 N.Z. parrot
54 Dwarf
56 Birthright seller
57 Unique thing (2 wds.)
60 Did sums
63 Pack -- -- (quit)
64 Melancholy poem
66 Devastate
68 Bird-feeder treat
69 Jazzy Della --
70 Ocean flier
71 Chi follower
72 Fine viol.
73 Exercise system

Down

1 Dolores -- Rio
2 Orchid-like flower
3 Nonsense!
4 Pharaoh's amulet
5 Seizing suddenly
6 Down with a cold
7 Candle's light
8 Big commotion (hyph.)
9 Office workers
10 French state
11 Opinion survey (2 wds.)
12 Say hi
16 Realty unit
21 Boat made of skins
23 Seashell seller?
25 Heron
28 Baylor University site
29 Holland export
30 Limits
31 Fixed a seam
33 Heifer's hello
36 Ghostly
38 Dye-yielding plant
39 Assessment
41 Twist the truth
43 Herd follower
45 Whodunit sleuths
46 Tried
49 Give -- -- break
51 Hepburn of films
52 Wavy-bladed dagger
53 Scarf down (2 wds.)
55 Piece of fish
58 Not for
59 Crystal gazer
61 Type of dollar
62 Small dent
65 Youth org.
67 Teachers' gp.



metro.us/sudoku

easy

4								
	1	6	8		7	5		
	5	2			9	6		
		1		3			6	5
6								4
3	4			9		2		
		7	4			3	1	
		8	5		6	4	2	
								8

hard

					9	3	1	
					1	6		
	1		7	5	2	4		8
	8	3			4			2
				8				
6			9			8	4	
8		2	4	9	5		3	
		1	3					
	3	9	2					

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Emotions will flare up if you don't keep busy. Schedule your day to prevent you from wasting time or letting little annoyances get to you. Offer love, not discord.

Taurus You'll have plenty to offer if you attend a meeting or set up an interview. Getting ahead should be your focus. Telling it like it is will gain you respect.

Gemini You can make physical alterations that will pump up your ego and give you the courage you need to do your own thing. Don't procrastinate.

Cancer Think before you say something that might discourage others from helping you. Getting along and offering solutions gracefully is a better way to go.

Leo Adventure will find you wherever you go. Participating in events and jumping from one thing to another will bring you the highest returns. Live in the moment.

Virgo Look for something that interests you. A seminar, trip or special-interest group will encourage you to try something different and make new acquaintances.

Libra You've got everything in place, so don't be deterred by someone's comment. Step up and figure it out as you go. Success comes from taking action, not from procrastinating.

Scorpio Figure out what you want to pursue and get what you need in order to make your vision a reality. You can make a major personal change for the better.

Sagittarius Take control of your life and incorporate satisfying changes. Personal gains will be made if you get involved and make things happen.

Capricorn Think twice before you trust someone enough to share your personal thoughts or information. It's important to protect yourself against manipulative individuals.

Aquarius Go where the action is. Socialize, network and get involved in situations that you feel you can help or benefit from. New beginnings will stem from old beliefs.

Pisces Consider all aspects of every situation you face before you make a move. A dispute will leave you in a precarious position if you act prematurely. Be smart. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

M	E	T	E	■	P	Y	L	O	N	■	C	B	E	R
U	T	I	L	■	H	A	I	T	I	■	L	U	R	E
S	O	L	E	■	O	R	B	I	T	■	U	L	N	A
K	N	E	A	D	E	D	■	S	W	A	B	B	E	D
■	■	■	N	A	B	■	■	I	N	C	■	■	■	■
S	T	O	O	G	E	S	■	A	T	T	A	C	H	E
C	H	A	R	■	S	H	A	M	S	■	R	A	I	D
A	R	K	■	■	Y	A	P	■	■	S	K	I	■	■
R	E	E	D	■	B	E	A	L	E	■	S	T	E	T
S	E	N	A	T	O	R	■	Y	A	M	M	E	R	S
■	■	■	S	U	N	■	■	G	A	I	■	■	■	■
W	A	S	H	T	U	B	■	F	E	E	D	B	A	G
A	S	T	I	■	S	I	T	A	R	■	G	A	L	A
D	E	A	N	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	E	B	B	S
S	A	N	G	■	S	E	V	E	R	■	N	A	S	H

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